

# The big baking disaster (Monday December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024)

## Characters

Narrator – Katy Ashworth (1986-08-02 in Frimley, Surrey, South-East England) (38 years 4 months)

Mr Solomon Fariba (Shreya and Noel's father) (1967-05-09 in Chennai, India) (funny, smiley, hard-working and is a caring father – wears a black winter coat, a long-sleeved burgundy formal shirt, black trousers, white socks and black shoes, wears a black analogue watch on his right hand, has light brown skin, brown eyes, is bald and has a long black beard) (57 years 7 months)

Dad (Isayu Adhikari – Arimadura and Arigauravi's father) (Christmas Day 1970 in New Delhi, India) (oldest of the family, responsible, paternal and firm but loving – wears a long-sleeved purple and red striped shirt and blue jeans, wears a brown analogue watch on his right hand, has dark brown skin, brown eyes and is almost bald) (54 years 5 days)

Mum (Taryn Adhikari – Arimadura and Arigauravi's mother, Shreya and Noel's aunt and Gaura's maternal cousin) (1976-09-12 in Agra, India) (loving, kind, fluent in English and Hindi and must discipline her children at times – wears a light blue long-sleeved shirt with dark blue stripes and blue jeans, has olive skin, brown eyes and has black, medium-length wavy hair in a high ponytail) (48 years 3 months)

Mrs Gaura Fariba (Shreya and Noel's mother and Mum's maternal cousin) (1977-03-17 in Chennai, India) (pretty, friendly, intelligent but can be a bit prim – wears a purple winter coat, a violet Christmas jumper, a black short-sleeved shirt underneath, blue jeans, and black loafers, wears a purple digital watch on her left hand, has light brown skin, brown eyes, has long black curly hair and wears middle-sized black rectangular-rimmed glasses) (47 years 9 months)

Mr Robert Carter Jr. (Taylor and Flora's former stepfather) (1981-09-20 in Edgware, Barnet, North London) (loving, helpful, funny and rarely gets infuriated – wears a blue Christmas jumper, a short-sleeved black shirt underneath, black trousers with narrow white stripes, blue socks and black loafers, wears a royal blue smart watch on his right hand, has fair skin, blue eyes and a dark brown sideways fringe) (43 years 3 months)

Kiki (2005-06-01 in Harlow, Essex, East of England – Gaura's nephew, Shreya and Noel's older cousin and Toki's elder brother) (a boy who is fan of sports, especially football, full of beans, handsome but can be quite bossy – wears a black sleeveless jacket, a long-sleeved yellow Christmas jumper, a short-sleeved yellow shirt underneath, blue jeans, blue socks and yellow shoes, has brown eyes, dark brown skin and black straight hair) (19 years 6 months)

Toki (2006-05-27 in Harlow, Essex, East of England – Gaura’s niece, Shreya and Noel’s older cousin and Kiki’s younger sister) (girly, sweet, kind and never hesitates to try new things – wears a teal waterproof coat, a turquoise long-sleeved shirt with a Christmas tree on it, a blue denim skirt, red tights and black flat shoes, has brown eyes, dark brown skin and long, wavy, black hair in two low pigtails) (18 years 7 months)

Arimadura (2006-10-17 in Locksbottom, Bromley, South-East London – Arigauravi’s older sister) (creative, likes to produce different foods, likes the Greater London region and its buses with the bright red livery a lot but can be quite naughty and throw tantrums when she does not get her way – has long curly black hair matted into twenty pieces with two twists in each cutting with two bright blue beads at the bottom of each twist in a pair of high pigtails, copper skin and brown eyes and wears a red knitted cardigan, a short-sleeved pink polo shirt saying ‘Hong Kong Sevens’, blue jeans and white socks with hearts on them) (18 years 2 months)

Shreya (2007-03-13 in Harlow, Essex, East of England – Noel’s elder sister and Toki and Kiki’s younger cousin) (creative, has good knowledge, wise and almost never fights with her brother or cousins – wears a violet winter coat, a short-sleeved purple dress, lilac tights and violet trainers, has brown eyes, dark brown skin and long black curly hair in a ponytail) (17 years 9 months)

Arigauravi (2008-01-05 in Locksbottom, Bromley, South-East London – Arimadura’s younger brother) (happy, resourceful, respectful but can be a bit mischievous – has short curly black hair, copper skin and brown eyes and wears a pair of small red rectangular-rimmed glasses on his head and wears a green short-sleeved shirt, blue jeans and grey computer socks) (16 years 11 months)

Noel (2012-03-06 in Harlow, Essex, East of England – Shreya’s younger brother and Toki and Kiki’s youngest cousin) (happy, never foolish and almost never fights with his sister or cousins – wears a green winter coat, a lime long-sleeved shirt, green trousers, grey socks and black trainers, has brown eyes, light brown skin and has short straight black hair) (12 years 9 months)

The sentences or words in red and in brackets are stage directions and how the people talk

Narrator: It was a dark, misty, winters night at the Adhikaris’ and the family was about to have some visitors. The Adhikari siblings were watching a Nickelodeon Broadcast on Now TV on the living room Hisense television when they heard a knock at the door.

(knock at the door)

Mr Carter: Who do you think is at the door?

Arimadura: I think it’s Uncle Wali Muhamed because he frequently comes with us to Ikea in Croydon.

Arigauravi: You are wrong Arimadura, it’s Pastor Ethan and his family, because he teaches us for teenage church.

(Mum looks out of the sitting room window)

Narrator: Mum was looking out of the window, and they told the siblings that their answers were good guesses, but they were all incorrect.

Mum: Unfortunately, all of you, you guessed well but you are all incorrect. The Faribas are at the door. Both of you, remember the Faribas almost 3 years ago, the mother is my cousin, and the children are the children's cousins, they live in Harlow in Essex. They last arrived on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. They have also come with their cousins Toki and Kiki. (she proceeds to the front door where the six visitors are waiting at the top of the stairs outside, and the Fariba family and their cousins come into the house)

Solomon: Hello guys.

The Adhikari siblings: Hello Uncle Solomon. (they shake Solomon's hands)

Gaura (The Perry-Carter family approach her and the rest of the family): Good evening, you must be Robert Carter Jr.

Mr Carter: I arrived here for a sleepover on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, when the Adhikaris came back home from the South Coast, and I am set to leave on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, and my car is a Skoda Kamiq made in 2024, and I live 1 mile from the former Adhikari's maisonette.

(the Faribas, cousins and Mr Carter go to the adults' bedroom and meet Dad who is reading the Bible)

Shreya (kneels down): Good evening, Uncle Isayu. (she rises back up again)

Dad (puts his bookmark on the page where he stopped, closes the bible and faces the visitors): Good evening, Kiki, Toki, Shreya, and Noel. How are you all?

Kiki, Toki, Noel and Shreya: We're fine, thank you.

Dad: You can bake as soon as Arigauravi and I have done the shopping for the week as we need white chocolate, honey, and smarties to make the buttercream.

(Dad continues reading the bible and the visitors leave the room)

Narrator: When the children had finished greeting Dad, Auntie Gaura had an enquiry for her older cousin.

Gaura (asks politely): Because the children like to make food, please may the six children make a cake and ice it with icing and food colouring we brought from our house in Harlow? To eat at the giant banquet with some chilli con carne we made and brought home.

(Mum looks at her younger cousin, shrugs her shoulders and muses)

Mum: Yes, you may, but my husband is in the room, and he might shout when he sees you baking before the shopping is done. He is currently reading the bible.

Narrator: But Auntie Gaura was not interested in Mum telling her that Dad would be shouting at the children, she went to the sitting room and told her husband Uncle Solomon (who was watching Bee and PuppyCat on YouTube with Mr Carter)

Gaura: Solomon Fariba, the children would like to make and ice a cake, please may you help them make the biggest cake ever? Because the children would like to have a banquet with our chilli con carne.

Solomon: I will. (he follows the six children to the kitchen)

Narrator: The six children, especially the Adhikaris were mightily excited about their self-organised banquet and having the ability to ice the cake, which the Adhikaris almost never had the ability to buy icing as the parents said that it was way too much sugar.

Kiki (burps loudly): Excuse me. I like to bake, almost as much as watch the TV.

Toki: I like doing design technology at school and food production is a field of that subject.

Arimadura (blissfully): It is not often that we get to ice cakes, we only get to bake them and eat them without icing, as icing has way too much sugar.

Shreya (happily): I like to bake things VERY, VERY MUCH! Whoops, excuse me.

Arigauravi: I hope daddy doesn't shout at all of us and pour the cake mix away when we are in the middle of baking or when it is in the oven or locks it away when it is in the middle of cooling off; besides, I'm even going shopping with my dad in the next 20 minutes.

Noel: I like to bake; I like to eat cakes.

Narrator: In the kitchen, Uncle Solomon preheated the oven to 165°C and the children helped to bring out the ingredients they needed to produce the cake (eggs, caster sugar, vegetable oil, self-raising flour, semi-skimmed milk, and baking powder). They also helped to weigh and measure the ingredients, Arigauravi put five eggs in a bowl without breaking them, Kiki measured two cups of sugar, Arimadura poured some vegetable oil into a cup, Toki helped put three cups and three quarters of self-raising flour into a cooking pot and Arimadura measured 1 cup and a half of semi-skimmed milk before making the cake.

Solomon (gets the white mixing bowl and mixer out of its carton): Now let's make the cake (he plugs the mixer and puts the bowl on the countertop) Arigauravi, please may you crack all five eggs into the mixing bowl and beat the eggs until they are fluffy?

Narrator: When the eggs were nice and frothy, Uncle Solomon asked Kiki to put the measured sugar into the mixing bowl. When the sugar was added to the five eggs, Uncle Solomon asked Arimadura to mix the eggs and sugar together.

(Arimadura beats the eggs and sugar together until light and fluffy and then Uncle Solomon asks Toki to put in the oil)

Narrator: The children were having a lot of fun helping to produce the cake, Arimadura was mixing the sugar, eggs, and oil together and Shreya, Arigauravi and Noel were helping to mix the dry ingredients (i.e. flour and baking powder) in a separate bowl when they had an unexpected visitor.

Noel: Children, no baking. (he unplugs the mixer)

Dad (bursts into the kitchen looking livid and bangs the countertop with his right fist): If you bake **RIGHT AWAY** all of you will smell yourselves **tonight**, you will learn. **WAIT** until Arigauravi and I come back home from shopping!

Narrator: When Dad told all the children to wait for him, all six children started to protest and ask multiple questions. But Dad was not buying those complaints.

Kiki: I really like to bake cakes fam! Yo, it ain't fair.

Toki: I am a very creative girl.

Arimadura (bawling): IT'S NOT FAIR!

Shreya: Mr Adhikari, please let us continue to bake.

Noel: I like baking so much.

(all the children start to cry loudly but Dad ignores their sobs)

Solomon (livid): Isayu Adhikari, look, you have stopped the children except Arigauravi and I from baking and icing a cake. Not to mention that you have made all the children, yes, all the children cry like babies. Even the oldest children Kiki and Kiki. Isayu, how would you feel if somebody stopped you from baking?

Dad (livid): I don't give a (bleep) you (bleep)!!

(Dad exits the kitchen with Arigauravi to take the 2017 Toyota RAV4 to go to Lidl to do shopping for the week, while the rest of the children and Solomon resume baking, despite being told to wait and the children stop crying instantly)

Solomon: Sorry, before we were rudely interrupted, I am going to gradually put the dry ingredients and milk into the wet ingredients bowl, whilst beating the mixture.

(he puts the milk and dry ingredients gradually in the bowl with sugar, eggs and vegetable oil and mixes all the ingredients together until the mixture is fully incorporated)

Narrator: When Uncle Solomon finished mixing the ingredients, he asked his daughter Shreya to get a silver rectangular cake tin and his son Noel to pour the mixture into the tin and his nephew-in-law Kiki to put the cake into the oven so it could cook for forty minutes.

Solomon: The cake must cook for 40 minutes.

(40 minutes later, Uncle Solomon turns the oven off and takes the cake out of the oven, takes a knife, and pokes it into the cake; the cake has turned out clean and then puts the cake on the cooling rack so it could cool off for 10 minutes)

Solomon: The cake must cool down for 10 minutes, and we can...

Noel: Ice the cake.

(8 minutes later, Dad and Arigauravi came home from Lidl, and both enter the kitchen only to find out that the children and Uncle Solomon have shunned him, and the cake is cooling off)

Narrator: Unfortunately, when the cake would be cooled off in two minutes, Dad became even more livid.

Dad (livid): SOLOMON FARIBA, GET YOUR GODDAMN ASS HERE NOW!

(Solomon enters the kitchen instantly after Dad called his name and surname)

Solomon (curious): What's the matter Isayu Adhikari?

Dad (livid): WTF is this?



Solomon (hesitantly): A cake that the children and I have worked hard to cool down. (he is on the verge of bursting into tears)

Dad (exceptionally livid): DIDN'T I TELL YOU AND THE (bleep) CHILDREN TO WAIT UNTIL ARIGAURAVI AND I COME BACK HOME FROM SHOPPING?!

Solomon (very hesitantly): (Yes.)

Dad (livid to the point of taking the cake out of the cooling rack and locking away the cake that is yet to be cooled away): FORGET ABOUT THIS SOLOMON RAMA FARIBA! (this time, instead of turning the oven off, removing the cake from it, and washing the mixture away since the cake was done; he takes the cake off the cooling rack and locked the cake in the 2024 Volvo EX30 car)

Narrator: After Dad locked the cake that was yet to be cooled away, the children came into the kitchen looking shocked.

Arimadura (appalled): What the hell happened to our beautiful cake we made?

Toki (coughs): It was cooled off in less than 10 minutes

Mr Carter: I doubt that it hasn't been 10 minutes.

Narrator: Suddenly, Mum came into the kitchen with some terrible news for the children.

The Adhikari children: MUMMY?!

Mum: Hello Arimadura and Arigauravi and the other children. We regretfully have to inform all of you that my husband hid the cake that was yet to be iced, I'm sorry to have to tell you that the banquet has been postponed until tomorrow, since the Jones are arriving, and it may be late.

Dad: SHEEEEEEEEEET EEEEEEEEEEEEP!!

All children (shouting): OH NO! (they all start screaming, kicking, and slamming doors)

Gaura and Solomon: Kiki, Noel, Toki, and Shreya, stop kicking, screaming, and slamming doors, I know that the cake making has become an epic failure but that is no excuse to start throwing tantrums like two-year-olds, especially you Kiki.

Narrator: The Faribas and cousins went home, because of the baking disaster and they were unhappy about it. Not to mention that the Adhikaris and were unhappy about it too.

(As the Faribas leave the house through the front door, Arimadura and Arigauravi go to their separate bedrooms and start to scream, slam doors, kick and cry harder than before)

Arimadura (hails, slams her bedroom door, screams and kicks): I am extremely disappointed about the big baking disaster!

Arigauravi (hollers, slams his bedroom door, screams and kicks): ME TOO!

Narrator: Mr Carter and Dad came into the children's room and were exceedingly kind towards them.

Mr Carter (sympathetic): I am so, deeply sorry for what had happened when you and the Fariba children tried to make a cake and ice it. (he kisses all the children) Please stop darlings, don't cry, scream, or kick.

Dad (sympathetic, no longer livid): Arimadura and Arigauravi, stop kicking and slamming doors, you're 18 and nearly 17. I know you wanted to decorate the cake for the first time living in this house, but that is NO excuse to throw tantrums and slam doors like almost-eight-year-olds. You two are not eight years old anymore. (he hugs the Adhikari siblings) I have a resolution for the problem; you can tuck into the Faribas' homemade chilli con carne. After that, I will unlock the cake and decorate and ice it for the banquet for tomorrow when the Jones arrive for a 2-night sleepover.

Narrator: After minutes of repetitive screaming and kicking, the children were happily dining on chilli con carne and wining on sparkling apple juice Uncle Solomon brought from Harlow.

Arigauravi (raises his green plastic cup): We are two happy siblings again. (Arimadura raises her pink plastic cup, and the siblings have a toast)

Narrator: When the children were eating chilli con carne whilst watching Littlest Pet Shop on YouTube, Dad came to meet the children.

Dad: Children, the reason why I paused you from baking was because Arigauravi and I went shopping for the week and we needed smarties, honey and white chocolate to make the buttercream to put in the cake, not only that, but we were also going to be having a watch-night service tomorrow. And that wouldn't be all, we would have a small party after the service with some cake, Hogmanay shortbread biscuits, Chinese noodles, and Pizza from Papa John's. Do you understand the reason I paused all of you from making a cake?

Adhikari siblings (eating their dinner): Yes, we do understand.

Dad (apologetic): Also, I am sorry that I shouted at all of you and Uncle Solomon and made all of you cry, I just wanted to tell you that Mr Carter and I would be buying the cake and some shortbread biscuits from Aldi, and Mum would be ordering the pizza from Papa John's and you, Arimadura will make the Chinese noodles. (he hugs all the children) Also, now that the Jones are on the verge of arriving, I'll unlock the cake to ice it for tomorrow's banquet.

Adhikari siblings: We forgive you sir. (they resume eating their dinner)

THE END

Note: On December 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024, Mr Carter planned a sleepover and called Isayu to let the Adhikari family know that he is coming for a sleepover on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and on that day, Mr Carter took a train from Bromley South to Leicester Station and the Adhikaris were coming home from their 5-day holiday in Isle of Wight, South Coast and they had to have a stopover in Leicester Station to pick up Mr Carter from there and on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, Mr Carter took a train back to his house using the same train, this time he called a taxi to take him to Leicester Station; the taxi was a blue BMW X5 made in Late 2013.